

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1429

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, KE, MTN

SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 141388, (B) USDEL MTN GENEVA 5697

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TRADE AND SUPPLIES (EXTERNAL) OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MIDDLE-LEVEL OFFICIAL WITH DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR KENYAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AFFAIRS. AS OF JULY 29 HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION FROM KENYAN TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATING TEAM REGARDING U.S. TRADE CONCESSIONS REQUEST LIST. NEITHER WAS HE AWARE THAT U.S. DEL WAS SEEKING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LDC'S.

2. DURING BRIEF DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT OF RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS WITHIN MTN, KENYAN OFFICER EXPRESSED HIS OWN OPINION THAT ON PRINCIPLE LDC'S SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO BARTER FOR TRADE BENEFITS FROM DC'S. MOREOVER, IN KENYA'S CASE, HE FELT THAT SMALL ADVANTAGES HIS COUNTRY

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WOULD EXPERIENCE FROM EITHER GSP OR TP NEGOTIATIONS

DID NOT WARRANT KENYAN TARIFF REDUCTIONS ON ITEMS IN WHICH THE U.S. HAD LITTLE TRADE INTEREST ANYWAY. END RESULT, IN HIS VIEW, WOULD BE KENYA'S LOSS OF REVENUE FROM LOWER IMPORT DUTY COLLECTIONS. LIKE MOST LDC'S, KENYA DEPENDS HEAVILY ON SUCH INDIRECT TAXATION TO COVER RECURRENT EXPENDITURES OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. NEVERTHELESS, HE PROMISED TO CAREFULLY STUDY U.S. CONCESSION REQUESTS WHEN THEY REACH MINISTRY.

3. KENYAN DEL IN GENEVA IS VERY CLEARLY SUFFERING FROM INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS GAP. MEMBERS OF DEL (4) ARE FULL-TIME COMMERCIAL ATTACHES FROM KENYAN MISSIONS IN NEIGHBORING EUROPEAN COUNTRIES; THEREFORE THEY ARE UNABLE TO DEVOTE UNINTERRUPTED ATTENTION TO MTN PROCEEDINGS. MINISTRY OFFICIALS RECEIVE OCCASIONAL REPORTING (BY MAIL) FROM DELEGATES AND RESPOND IN SAME FASHION. ACCORDING TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WITH WHOM EMBOFFS DISCUSSED KENYAN REPRESENTATION IN GENEVA, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY PREPARES VERY GENERAL GUIDELINES ON GOK TRADE POLICY, BUT DELEGATES ARE FREE TO FLESH OUT THESE POSITIONS AT THEIR OWN DISCRETION. FOR INSTANCE, KENYAN OFFER LIST ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS (TP) WAS DEVELOPED BY KENYAN DELEGATE ON THAT NEGOTIATING GROUP FROM COMPUTER READOUTS DESCRIBING KENYAN-U.S. TRADE PATTERNS WHICH WERE SUPPLIED BY UNCTAD SECRETARIAT. LIST WAS THEN REVIEWED IN MINISTRY AND MAILED BACK TO GENEVA. FACT THAT DELEGATION THEN RAISED QUESTION ABOUT INCLUSION OF WOODEN HANGERS IN U.S. OFFER LIST (REFTEL B) CAME AS COMPLETE SURPRISE IN MINISTRY, AS THIS ITEM HAD NEVER PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONSIDERED FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT. MINISTRY OFFICIAL FINALLY CONCLUDED THAT KENYAN DELEGATION MAY HAVE MISTAKEN COAT HANGARS FOR CLOTHESPINS, A NEW KENYAN EXPORT PRODUCT IN AFRICAN MARKETS.

4. IN ADDITION, MINISTRY RELIES ON EEC SOURCE IN GENEVA WHICH DISSEMINATES BACKGROUND INFORMATION AMONG COMMONWEALTH NATIONS REGARDING STATUS OF MTN DISCUSSIONS. OFFICERS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUBSCRIBING TO USDOC'S MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS NEWS WHEN SHOWN A COPY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY EMBOFFS.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE OBVIOUS LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN KENYA'S MTN GROUP AND RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY IN NAIROBI, EMB DOUBTS THAT GOK WILL ABANDON POSITION THAT LDC'S SHOULD BE ACCORDED TRADE BENEFITS WITHOUT REQUESTS FOR QUID PRO QUO.

DECONTROL 7/30/77

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